

FIRST EDITION. CUBERNATORIAL.

The Message of Governor John W. Geary.

An Able Review of the Commonwealth and its Interests.

HARRISBURG, January 6.—The following is the message of Governor Geary, as sent to the two houses of the State Legislature at 11 o'clock this morning.

To the Honorable and Eminent Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

GENTLEMEN: For the harmony and general relations of comity and friendship existing between Pennsylvania and all the other States and Territories of the National Union; for the present and prosperous condition of the Commonwealth; for the glad signs of coming political tranquility; and for the success which attends the progress of our free institutions, we owe a heavy debt of gratitude to Divine Providence.

In view of the favorable circumstances under which you are now assembled, it becomes my duty, as it is my pleasure, to offer you my hearty congratulations, and to tender you a cordial welcome to the legislative halls of the State. It is indeed an honor to me to be permitted to participate with you in the confidence manifested by them in selecting you to represent their Commonwealth.

On your wisdom, integrity, judgment, and discretion, all will undoubtedly rely for the correct determination of all questions affecting the largest interests and greatest responsibilities, and for a continuance, and even an increase, of that prosperity which has hitherto been so signally and so abundantly blessed.

It is not without a consciousness of the great responsibility resting upon me that I undertake the performance of a constitutional duty requiring that the Governor shall from time to time give to the General Assembly information of the state of the Commonwealth, and recommend to it any measures which he deems expedient.

FINANCES.

The following is a carefully prepared statement of the financial condition of the State for the fiscal year ending November 30, 1868:—

The reports of the Auditor-General and State Treasurer show that the balance in the Treasury, November 30, 1867, was \$41,861,839.46

Ordinary receipts during the year, 5,216,949.55
Depreciated funds in the Treasury, 41,032.00
Unavailable, 41,032.00

Total in Treasury for fiscal year, \$9,913,918.01
Payments, viz:—
Ordinary expenditures, \$4,451,566.00
Legis. etc., 4,417,483.64
Other payments, 132,800.00
Interest on loans, 1,079,690.91
De-preciated funds, un-
available, 41,032.00
8,905,492.64

Balance in Treasury, Nov. 30, 1868, \$1,018,415.37

SINKING FUND.

By an act approved April 10, 1868, transactions of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund were ordered to be reported to the Legislature on or before the 30th day of November. Their last report, therefore, includes a period of one year and three months.

The following is the "recapitulation" of the operations of the sinking fund from September 3, 1867, to November 30, 1868:—
Balance in fund September 3, 1867, \$1,737,912.41
Receipts in fund from September 3, 1867, to November 30, 1868, 3,418,922.31
\$5,156,834.72
Paid interest, \$1,806,005.84
Premiums paid as equivalent for coin, 49.98
Loans redeemed, 2,418,814.96
\$4,224,820.78
Balance in fund November 30, 1868, \$992,013.94

By the sixth section of the act of May 16, 1861, a special tax of one dollar on the dollar was levied for the purpose of the payment of the interest and redemption of the loan created by an act of May 15, 1861, entitled "An act to create a loan and provide for the redemption of the same."

Balance on hand September 3, 1867, \$319,933.17
The receipts from said tax and tax on gross receipts from September 3, 1867, to November 30, 1868, amount to \$429,979.20

Total, \$749,912.37
Interest paid on the dollar loan, 169,245.00
Balance in fund November 30, 1868, \$579,667.37

CONDITION OF BALANCES.

Balance in sinking fund November 30, 1868, \$579,667.37
Balance in sinking fund November 30, 1867, 574,667.37
Deficit balance in Treasury, November 30, 1868, \$1,018,415.37
Balance in favor of sinking fund, \$499,284.76

REDUCTION OF THE STATE DEBT.

By the report of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund for the year ending September 2, 1867, the "loans redeemed" amounted to \$24,418,816.46, making a total reduction of the State debt, in two years and three months, of four millions and eighty-three thousand three hundred and eighty-six dollars and fourteen cents.

The assets remaining in the Sinking Fund are as follows, viz:—Bonds of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, six million four hundred thousand dollars, and bonds of the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad Company, three million five hundred thousand dollars. These are non-interest bearing bonds, and will not mature for many years.

I therefore recommend to the consideration of the Legislature the propriety of the passage of a law authorizing the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund to sell these bonds at public sale to the highest bidder, and direct the proceeds to be applied to the liquidation of the State debt.

PUBLIC DEBT.

Public debt outstanding December 31, 1868, \$37,704,406.77
Deduct amount redeemed at State Treasury during the fiscal year ending November 30, 1868, 4,448,383.64
5 per cent. loans, \$4,354,263.64
4 1/2 per cent. loans, 65,090.00
Relief notes cancelled, 210.00
4,417,483.64
Public debt December 31, 1868, \$33,286,923.13

Statement showing the condition of the indebtedness of the Commonwealth on the first day of December, 1868:—
Total funded, \$33,286,923.13
6 per cent. loans, \$25,311,180.00
5 per cent. loans, 7,749,717.56
4 1/2 per cent. loans, 112,000.00
Total funded, \$33,286,923.13
Unfunded debt, viz:—
Interest on the State debt, \$96,415.00
Interest certificates outstanding, 13,956.92
Interest certificates un-claimed, 4,448.38
Domestic creditors' certificates, 44.67
Total unfunded, 114,820.97
Total funded and unfunded, \$33,286,923.13

Which is the amount of the State debt as before stated.

During the last eighteen years there has been expended upon the accounts of the Auditor-General and State Treasurer, and in their several public statements, "depreciated funds" to the amount of more than \$10,000,000, and thirty-two dollars. I recommend the appointment of a joint committee by the Legislature, whose duty it shall be to examine and report on the propriety of the mode of disposal of them to the best advantage of the Treasury; or, if found to be worthless, to cancel and destroy the same, and to have the proceeds applied to the necessity and responsibility of annually accounting for them.

The large cash balance remaining in the Treasury, and the fact that the State has been used for the payment of the twenty-three million loan and for the liquidation of outstanding claims against the State. The mode recommended in my last annual message has, therefore, in a great measure been rendered unnecessary. It is, however, the duty of the Legislature to provide for the safe custody of large accumulations of money hereafter, and to recommend to the Executive the mode of disposal of them to the best advantage of the Treasury; or, if found to be worthless, to cancel and destroy the same, and to have the proceeds applied to the necessity and responsibility of annually accounting for them.

I regret to state that the last Legislature, although it intended to agree to the mode of disposal of the same, failed to do so. It is, therefore, the duty of the Legislature to provide for the safe custody of large accumulations of money hereafter, and to recommend to the Executive the mode of disposal of them to the best advantage of the Treasury; or, if found to be worthless, to cancel and destroy the same, and to have the proceeds applied to the necessity and responsibility of annually accounting for them.

Notwithstanding the satisfactory reduction of the public indebtedness, as shown in the foregoing statements, an immense State debt of nearly two millions of dollars is to be collected to pay the interest accruing upon it annually. Its extinguishment is, therefore, a matter of the highest importance to every taxpayer. I cannot, therefore, too strongly urge the strictest economy in every department of the Government, and the highest importance to every taxpayer. I cannot, therefore, too strongly urge the strictest economy in every department of the Government, and the highest importance to every taxpayer.

Retrenchment is emphatically demanded by the people. The Legislature should be careful to see that every dollar that is expended is accounted for, and that every dollar that is expended is accounted for.

It is not without a consciousness of the great responsibility resting upon me that I undertake the performance of a constitutional duty requiring that the Governor shall from time to time give to the General Assembly information of the state of the Commonwealth, and recommend to it any measures which he deems expedient.

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defect for the year ending May 31, 1869, the amount of which will be carefully ascertained and presented to the Legislature prior to the close of the present session.

The schools are all in good condition and improving, and their usefulness daily becoming more manifest. The State has a large number of philanthropic institutions of the age, and reflect high honor on the patriotism of the Legislature by which they have been so liberally endowed, and upon our people by whom they are sustained. The children who are the recipients of their benefits are the offspring of brave men who voluntarily endangered their lives in the cause of their country in the most trying hour of its existence, and who, glowing with patriotic ardor, fought as bravely as any heroically as the world's history.

Thousands of them who left their homes in the bloom of health, and with the brightest hopes of manhood, now sleep in death, leaving their widows and little ones to the care of the country in whose service they fell, and which promised them its protection. Their children are the wards of the great Commonwealth, and too much praise cannot be awarded its people for the munificent and tender manner in which they have been cared for, through their provisions, which have secured the sacred and delicate trust.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE. Before the General Government appropriated public lands to the several States for the purpose of establishing agricultural colleges, and the mechanic arts, and prior to the time when Pennsylvania endowed the Agricultural College, the State had no other means of support than its own earnings. History proves that seminaries of liberal education, supported by the State, are more likely to be sustained than those supported by their own internal resources.

The education of youth in the higher branches of knowledge requires the aid of philanthropic contributions. The Agricultural College, established by the State, is a noble institution, and its benefits to any adequate extent, and though the board of trustees bestowed upon it the amount of \$250,000, it is not sufficient to meet the wants of those who are desirous of attending it. Hence the school did not command the confidence of the people, and it was not until the year 1867, when the Legislature, by an act, authorized the board of trustees to raise a fund of \$250,000, to be paid to the State, and to be used for the purpose of endowing the school.

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and perjury. And if this privilege be tampered with, sooner or later the sure and indignant retributions of a just God will be rendered manifest to all eyes. All good citizens, of whatever political opinion, should feel that the accomplishment of any duty which may tend to secure the peace and good order of the State, is a duty which is not only his right, but his duty, and that he should feel that the accomplishment of any duty which may tend to secure the peace and good order of the State, is a duty which is not only his right, but his duty.

Every proper facility for the naturalization of citizens of foreign birth should be afforded; but the Legislature, in its amended act, has carefully enacted some mode to prevent the possibility of a single vote being cast upon spurious naturalization papers, and thus fully secure the purity of the Elective Franchise.

Revision of the Civil Code. The Commissioners appointed to codify the statute laws of the State have diligently prosecuted their work, and with every prospect that it will be fully completed within the time prescribed by the legislative resolutions of April 8, 1868; and in further compliance with the provisions of the act, before each branch of the General Assembly, at its present session, various titles of bills, with brief abstracts of the several sections of each, which have been prepared.

Insurance Department. Among the subjects of importance to the citizens of Pennsylvania is the establishment of an Insurance Department. Such a department is necessary to regulate the interests of neighboring States, by means of which the interests of insurers are guarded and protected. It is a subject of great importance, and one which has attracted the attention of the Legislature, and which has been the subject of much discussion.

Willit. Pennsylvania insurance companies transact little business outside of the State, and it is a subject of great importance to the citizens of the State, and which has attracted the attention of the Legislature, and which has been the subject of much discussion.

New Hospital for the Insane. The Commissioners appointed by an act of the last session "to establish an additional State Hospital for the Insane," have notified the Executive of their progress, and have held several meetings during the present month, which will be communicated hereafter.

Damages by Raids. In accordance with an act of the last session, providing for the compensation of citizens of several counties "whose property was destroyed, damaged, or appropriated for the public service, and in the manner provided for in the act," a commission of three competent gentlemen was appointed, who have performed the allotted duties, and will soon make a full report of the same.

Paris Exposition. I have received through the Secretary of State of the United States a bronze medal and diploma from the Imperial Commissioners for the exhibition of the Paris Exposition in 1867. These tributes to an important branch of the internal resources of Pennsylvania have been assigned to the class among other valuable relics in the Executive Chamber.

State Coat of Arms. Diligent but unsuccessful search has been made for the coat of arms of the State, and it is a subject of great importance to the citizens of the State, and which has attracted the attention of the Legislature, and which has been the subject of much discussion.

The Susquehanna Fisheries. A preliminary report on the Susquehanna fisheries has been submitted by Colonel James Worrall, Civil Engineer, Commissioner under the act of the last session, and which has attracted the attention of the Legislature, and which has been the subject of much discussion.

Cattle Disease. The prevalence of contagious or epidemic diseases among cattle and other animals has for some years past been a prolific source of anxiety and alarm among the producers and consumers of meat in this State, and it is a subject of great importance to the citizens of the State, and which has attracted the attention of the Legislature, and which has been the subject of much discussion.

Statistics. In view of the vast and great variety of the products of the State, and the collection of statistics relative to exports and imports, agriculture, manufactures, coal, iron, and other articles that might be produced, it is a subject of great importance to the citizens of the State, and which has attracted the attention of the Legislature, and which has been the subject of much discussion.

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the Vermont Legislature, bearing a just tribute to the late Hon. Thaddeus Stevens. Joint resolutions from the same body are also introduced, which regard as worthy of your consideration, relative to the act of Congress "to establish and protect National Cemeteries, and recommending that the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, be placed under the control of the board of commissioners having charge of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, and to transfer all the right, title, interest, and care of said Soldiers' National Cemetery to the General Government, upon the completion of the same."

In Memoriam. It has been the misfortune of the State during the past year to lose by death two of her representatives in Congress, the Honorable Hon. Thaddeus Stevens, of the Ninth, and Hon. Darwin A. Finney, of the Twentieth District. Both were natives of Vermont, but in early life removed to Pennsylvania, and identified themselves with her interests, which they were chosen to guard in the Legislature; and the people will justly remember with gratitude their faithful and efficient services. The first went down to his grave after a long life of public usefulness and in well merited honors; the second was called to his grave by the untimely death of a scarcely less brilliant career.

Pardons. The list of pardons issued during the past year will be found among the papers to which your attention is called. The principal reasons for the granting of pardons are, in some of the prominent petitioners, are given in every case. That a few of these pardons may have been granted to persons who were the representatives of relatives, friends, sympathizing neighbors, and other interested parties, there is no doubt, but in the majority of instances the pardons were granted to persons who had been convicted of crimes, and who had been brought before the courts in consequence of their return to the commission of crime.

The whole number of applications for pardons during the year was 1,000, and of those granted 200. The number of pardons granted in that time has been one hundred and six, which is a little over 6 1/2 per cent. Of those pardons granted, 100 were granted to persons who had been convicted of crimes, and who had been brought before the courts in consequence of their return to the commission of crime.

The pardon report will exhibit that many instances in which Executive clemency has been granted to persons who had been convicted of crimes, and who had been brought before the courts in consequence of their return to the commission of crime.

There are confined in the Philadelphia county prison the following named, under sentence of the courts for various offenses:—Edward Ford, sentenced May 12, 1861; Jerry Dixon, May 30, 1861; Patrick Flanagan, February 1, 1868; Newton Chapman, December 1, 1867; and Mrs. Alexander and Walter Vaughan, July 3, 1868. Successive Governors, for satisfactory reasons, have declined to execute the sentence of these persons. The law requires that they shall be executed in the case with the sentence, unconditionally pardoned, or held in close confinement in the county jail.

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